

IN THE CLAIMS:

A complete listing of the claims and their status as of this Amendment is as follows:

Claims 1-5 (Cancelled)

6. (Currently amended) A device for connecting two tool parts configured for receiving a threaded spindle, each of the tool parts having an associated threaded area, and wherein the device comprises:

a threaded spindle having at least one projecting shoulder the outside diameter of which is slightly smaller than the interior diameter of the associated threaded area of one of the tool parts to approximate said interior diameter such that said at least one projecting shoulder serves to guide said threaded spindle into, and provide axial and angular alignment between, the two tool parts, said at least one projecting shoulder having an axially positioned tool-receiving element to effect rotation of said threaded spindle when said at least one projecting shoulder is inserted within a tool part.

7. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 6, wherein the threaded spindle has a projecting shoulder at each end.

8.(Previously presented) The device according to claim 7, wherein the outside diameter of the projecting shoulder at each end is slightly smaller than the interior threads of the associated threaded area of a corresponding tool part to approximate the interior threads thereof to guide said threaded spindle into, and provide axial and angular alignment between, the two tool parts.

9.(Previously presented) The device according to claim 6, wherein said threaded spindle has two threaded sections, each being threaded in a direction opposite the other and assigned to corresponding threaded areas of the tool parts.

10.(Previously presented) The device according to claim 9, wherein the threaded sections of the threaded spindle have differing outside diameters for being correspondingly adapted to the differing interior diameters of the two tool parts.

11. (Currently amended) The device according to claim 6 7, wherein each said projecting shoulder ~~the threaded spindle~~ is configured with means a tool-receiving element for being rotated when rotating said threaded spindle via said projecting shoulder when positioned within the tool parts.

12. (Currently amended) A connection for connecting two tool pieces, the connection comprising:

a first tool piece having a threaded area for receiving a first threaded section of a threaded spindle;

a second tool piece having a threaded area for receiving a second threaded section of a threaded spindle; and

a threaded spindle having a first threaded section for engaging the threaded area of the first tool piece and a second threaded section for engaging the threaded area of the second tool piece, and wherein the threaded spindle comprises at least one shoulder extending beyond one of the threaded sections, said at least one projecting shoulder having an outer diameter slightly smaller than the interior diameter of the threaded area of one of the first tool piece and the second tool piece for approximating the interior diameter of said threaded area to ~~there~~ thereby guide the threaded section into the threaded area and provide axial and angular alignment of the first and second tool pieces, said at least one projecting shoulder further having a tool-receiving portion for effecting rotation of said threaded spindle via said projecting shoulder when inserted in said first or second tool piece .

13.(Previously presented) The connection according to claim 12, wherein the

second tool piece partially nests within the first tool piece.

14. (Previously presented) The connection according to claim 12, wherein the threaded spindle has opposing ends and has a projecting shoulder at each end.

15. (Previously presented) The connection according to claim 14, wherein the outside diameter of each projecting shoulder at each end is slightly smaller than the interior threads of the associated threaded area of a corresponding tool piece to approximate said interior threads to guide said threaded spindle into place and to provide axial and angular alignment between said first and second tool pieces.

16. (Previously presented) The connection according to claim 12, wherein threaded sections of the threaded spindle have opposing orientation and are assigned to corresponding threaded areas of the tool pieces.

17. (Previously presented) The connection according to claim 16, wherein the threaded sections of the threaded spindle have differing outside diameters and the threaded areas of the tool pieces have correspondingly adapted interior diameters.

18. (Currently amended) The connection according to claim ~~12~~ 14, wherein each said projecting shoulder of the threaded spindle is configured with means a tool-receiving portion for rotating effecting rotation of said threaded spindle via said projecting shoulder when positioned within said first and second tool pieces.